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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3709
INFO RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE 0556
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 1158
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 0722
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE 0668
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0871
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0552
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 0028
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4219

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 TRIPOLI 000588

SIPDIS

ABU DHABI PLEASE PASS TO NEA A/S WELCH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/21/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [ODIP](#) [QFDP](#) [LY](#)

SUBJECT: LIBYA ENFORCES TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST U.S. OFFICIALS REF: A) TRIPOLI 530, B) TRIPOLI 412, C) STATE 55839, D) TRIPOLI 478 (NOTAL)

CLASSIFIED BY: John T. Godfrey, CDA, U.S. Embassy - Tripoli, Dept of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Four years after re-establishing diplomatic relations, the Government of Libya (GOL) remains deeply concerned about efforts to ATTEMPTS TO CONDUCT IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL, ENGAGEMENT STRIKE A NERVE

¶2. (C) As reported ref A, an attempt to visit the historical Berber heartland in March prompted an angry response from the MFA and a prohibiti

¶3. (C) Following the protocol established in those discussions, post proposed in early March that Poloff visit the southern city of Sabha (loc EMBOFF DETAINED TO PREVENT TRAVEL TO SABHA

¶4. (C) On May 6, Libyan security officials pulled Poloff out of line on the tarmac at Tripoli International Airport while he attempted to bc

¶5. (C) Following the incident at the airport on May 6, the MFA TRIPOLI 00000588 002 OF 004 sent Post a diplomatic note asking that the § MFA ATTEMPTS TO REQUIRE THAT ALL DIPLOMATS OBTAIN "PERMISSION" FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL

¶6. (SBU) As reported ref B, the MFA sent to Western European and North American missions on May 19 a diplomatic note requiring that all diplom SECURITY SERVICES OBSTRUCT CHARGE'S TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI & POINTS EAST

¶7. (C) On May 23 - after receipt on May 19 of the MFA note requiring permission to travel and before receipt of ref C guidance on May 23 - s

¶8. (C) A Buraq Air agent told CDA and Emboffs during the encounter on May 23 that all Libyan-owned airlines with domestic service - Buraq Air,

¶9. (C) In Benghazi, security officials subjected CDA and Emboffs to a steady stream of harrassment. A security officer met CDA and Emboffs EMBOFFS DENIED "PERMISSION" TO TRAVEL IN SUPPORT OF U.S. PROGRAMS

¶10. (C) In late June, Post formally advised the MFA via diplomatic note that two Emboffs would accompany an Export Control and Border Securit

¶11. (C) On July 9, Post formally advised the MFA via diplomatic note that the Public Affairs Officer, CDA and their son would travel on July 2 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS APPEAR TO TARGET U.S. DIPLOMATS

¶12. (C) In addition to instructions prohibiting Libyan air carriers from boarding U.S. diplomats for domestic flights from Tripoli, the May 1

¶13. (C) Comment: Despite comments by senior GOL officials attesting to the desire for broader and deeper ties, significant elements of the req